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Dr. Cohen frankly admits that he heard of Lhamon's work and that Dr. Lhamon is given priority by everybody including himself and then claims priority for himself for the right side of the heart! As a matter of fact Lhamon's specimens showing injections on both sides, which are still in this laboratory, and which were described in his paper, were made over half a year before Dr. Cohen heard of how they were made through Drs. MacCallum and Oppenheimer.

Dr. Lhamon's manuscript on "The Sheath of the Sino-ventricular Bundle" which is still on file, was finished on July 22, 1911, and officially accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Anatomy* on November 3 of the same year. Because Dr. Lhamon had left the United States to accept an assistant professorship in the Philippine Medical School in August, 1911, a clerical error in the address caused a delay of several months in the return of the manuscript to the publishers. Hence the article did not appear till March, 1912, three months after Dr. Cohen's publication.

It is significant that there also is internal evidence in Dr. Cohen's report and in Dr. Oppenheimer's discussion which clearly betrays the origin of their ideas. But comment upon this is unnecessary and I make this statement of the facts only in the interests of truth and in justice to Dr. Lhamon and this laboratory.

A. W. MEYER

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,  
September 20, 1915

#### THE PISTILLATE SPIKELET IN *ZEa Mays*

HUNT<sup>1</sup> makes the statement that in the pistillate spikelet in *Zea Mays*, each spikelet is two flowered, the lower one being abortive. Our most recent work on the grasses, by Hitchcock<sup>2</sup> contains a similar statement, as do all of the other botanical text-books examined which treat of this subject. The prevailing idea seems to be that the pistillate spikelet in this species never contains more than one well-developed flower.

<sup>1</sup> "Cereals in America," p. 147, Orange Judd Company, 1904.

<sup>2</sup> "A Text-book of Grasses," p. 161, The Macmillan Company, 1914.

I had occasion some time ago to prepare material of corn spikelets for a class in systematic botany, and as I was growing the Country Gentleman variety of corn in my garden at the time, I used this. I was unable, however, to find any indication of the sterile flower in many of the spikelets, which led to closer observation. I soon discovered that some of the spikelets had two well-developed flowers inside each pair of glumes, and that others had but one such flower and another one partially developed. All gradations occurred in the same ear between spikelets with but one well-developed flower and those which had two.

Those who are familiar with this variety of corn will probably remember that the grains are irregularly arranged on the cob in many places, and that they do not always occur in regular rows as is commonly the case in corn. This irregularity is probably due to the fact that the development of the second flower in many of the spikelets tends to throw some of the grains out of alignment.

ALBAN STEWART

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#### A REMARKABLE FLIGHT OF CADDIS FLIES AND CHIRONOMIDS

ON the evening of September 8, 1909, while the writer was crossing the upper part of Currituck Sound, N. C., the air seemed filled with flying insects. They were so numerous over the water that vision was restricted to a much shorter radius than usual. The constant impacts of the insects against the face became annoying, the more so that they maintained their frequency throughout the six-mile sail across the sound.

Early the next morning I boarded the small steamer *Comet*, which had come from many miles down the Sound during the night. On this boat there was plentiful evidence of the swarm of insects. There was a layer of insects between the glass cover and the poster, concealing the print in every one of the framed shipping regulations and notices of various kinds about the steamer. How the

little creatures crowded into such small spaces is a marvel, but it is proof also of the extreme abundance and all-pervading character of the swarm.

The large lamp in the cabin, with a chimney of a capacity of perhaps a gallon, I was told, had been snuffed several times by the crowding insects. On a spread newspaper nearby lay a pile of the insects which had been dumped from the chimney. There were fully enough to have completely filled the chimney—an innumerable mass. From this collection I gathered some specimens for identification. The Chironomids, which were largely in the majority, have been identified by J. R. Malloch as *Chironomous halteralis* Coquillett, *C. modestus* Say, and *Tanytarsus* sp. The Trichoptera identified by Nathan Banks are *Ecetina incerta* Walker, and *Oxyethira dorsalis* Banks. No representatives of other orders were noted.

W. L. MCATEE

#### ON THE NOMENCLATURE OF ELECTRICAL UNITS

THE present cumbrous method of describing the electrical units in the electrostatic and electromagnetic systems suggests the advisability of the adoption of an abbreviated nomenclature which, while being simple, may be sufficiently descriptive. An attempt in this direction has been made by Messrs. Franklin and MacNutt in their text-book "The Elements of Electricity and Magnetism." In it "ab," the first syllable of the word "absolute," is prefixed to the names of the practical units to designate the corresponding units of the electromagnetic system. It appears to the writer that a similar abbreviation might with advantage be employed in the case of the electrostatic system, and he suggests the use of the prefix "es" for the electrostatic system and, possibly, the use of the prefix "em" instead of "ab" for the electromagnetic system. Thus the elementary charge of electricity would no longer be described as " $4.7 \times 10^{-10}$  electrostatic units of quantity (or charge)," but as " $4.7 \times 10^{-10}$  escoulombs." Similarly, the ratio of electronic charge to mass would not be expressed as " $1.7 \times 10^7$  electromagnetic units of

quantity (or charge) per gram," but as " $1.7 \times 10^7$  emcoulombs per gram." Certain written abbreviations naturally follow, thus: esc = escoulomb, emc = emcoulomb, esa = es-ampere, and so on. This system of nomenclature may be extended to the so-called "rational systems" by using "res" instead of "es" and "rem" instead of "em."

It is hoped that the use of some abbreviated system of nomenclature may become common, and the foregoing is offered as a possible contribution toward that end.

A. E. CASWELL

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON,  
October 14, 1915

#### COOPERATION IN LABELLING MUSEUMS

THE Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior of Canada published thirty duplicates of the larger labels of those making up its Handbook of the Rocky Mountains Park Museum. This was done with the intention of offering them through the Museum of the Geological Survey, Ottawa, Canada, to the thirty then known museums in Canada. The survey offered the labels to the museums. Seventeen of them requested certain of the labels and were supplied, being given to understand that these labels were for use only until better labels were available. It is intended to publish from time to time a revised and more complete handbook and to print separates of a larger number of the labels composing it. An edition of at least sixty duplicates will then be desirable, as there are now known to be that many museums, counting both large and small, in Canada.

The writing of the labels and the typesetting of the first edition has already served twenty-two purposes, namely, to produce the handbook of the museum, to partly label the Rocky Mountains Park Museum, to place labels referring to the museum, zoo, paddock and park in the railway station and hotels at Banff, to label some of the animals in the zoo of the park, to label all the local animals in the paddock of the park and to assist in labelling seventeen other Canadian museums. There is a daily prospect of having requests for such